

Message Text

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66

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 OPIC-12 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 INT-08 NEA-11 SS-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

FEA-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 AID-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 SCI-06

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R 121945Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3971

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, JM

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS NEW BAUXITE UNION

1. ACCORDING TO FRONT PAGE HEADLINE ARTICLE IN FEB. 12 JAMAICA DAILY NEWS, A UNION OF BAUXITE AND ALUMINA COUNTRIES MAY BE LAUNCHED IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS. THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL INCLUDE GUYANA, SURINAM, GHANA, INDIA MALAWI AND MALAYSIA WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRALIA JOINING AT A LATER DATE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE NEW ORGANIZATION IS A RESULT OF THE INITIATIVE OF JAMAICA AND GUYANA. ARTICLE REFERS TO MANLEY STATEMENTS OF ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, TO HIS TALKS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER AT THE OTTAWA COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, AND ALSO TO HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE EN ROUTE TO THE ALGIERS SUMMIT LAST SEPTEMBER

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2. AS A RESULT OF THEIR INITIATIVES AS "MAJOR SPONSORS",.

THE NEW ORGANIZATION'S HEADQUARTERS IS EXPECTED TO BE LOCATED IN EITHER JAMAICA OR GUYANA. THE ORGANIZATION'S OBJECTIVES WOULD BE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF REFINING FACILITIES IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PRICES, MARKETING CONDITIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT. THERE IS NO MENTION IN THE ARTICLE OF THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN CONAKRY. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, MANLEY IS THE CHIEF INITIATOR OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION AND SHOULD GET MOST OF THE CREDIT FOR IT. COVERAGE IS COMPARABLE TO THAT GIVEN PRIME MINISTER WHEN HE ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF CARICOM DECISION ON US SUGAR SHIPMENT AND IS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. HEWITT

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